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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A computer system, comprising:

an internal input device configured to receive user commands; and

a controller coupled to the internal input device and communicating with an operating system program that determines when an external Universal Serial Bus (USB) input device is attached to the computer, and wherein the operating system is configured to ignore data from the internal input device and to receive data from the external USB input device when an external USB input device is attached to the computer system.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the internal input device comprises at least one of a keyboard, a touch pad, and a pointing stick.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external USB input device comprises a USB mouse.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operating system is also configured to determine when an external USB input device is detached from the computer system, and wherein the operating system is configured to begin receiving data from the internal input device when the external USB input device is detached from the computer system.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the operating system is configured to update a system BIOS memory to indicate that an external USB input device has been attached when the attachment of an external USB input device is detected, and wherein the operating system is also configured to update a system BIOS memory to indicate that an external USB input device has been detached when the detachment of an external USB input device is detected.

6. (Original) A computer system, comprising:
an internal input device configured to receive user commands; and
a controller coupled to the internal input device and communicating with an operating system program that is configured to receive an enable function key input indicating that an external input device should be enabled, wherein the operating system is configured to ignore data from the internal input device and to receive data from the external input device when the enable function key input is received.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the internal input device comprises at least one of a keyboard, a touch pad, and a pointing stick.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the external input device comprises a USB mouse.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the operating system is also configured to receive a disable function key input that indicates that the external input device should be disabled, and wherein the operating system is configured to begin receiving data from the internal input device and to stop receiving data from the external input device when the disable function key input is received.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the operating system is configured to update a system BIOS memory to indicate that an external input device has been attached when the enable function key input is received, and wherein the operating system is also configured to update a system BIOS memory to indicate that an external input device has been detached when the disable function key input is received.

11. (Original) A method for controlling a computer, comprising:

determining whether an external USB input device has been attached to the computer; and

disabling an internal input device of the computer and enabling the external USB input device when the result of the determining step indicates that an external USB input device has been attached to the computer.
12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of disabling an internal input device of the computer and enabling the external USB input device comprises updating a system BIOS.
13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the determining step comprises automatically determining when an external USB input device has been attached to the computer.
14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the determining step comprises receiving an enable function key input.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:
determining when the external USB input device has been detached from the
computer; and
disabling the external USB input device and enabling the internal input device
when the result of the determining step indicates that an external USB input device has been
detached from the computer.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein step of determining when
the external USB input device has been detached from the computer comprises automatically
determining when the external USB input device has been detached from the computer.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of determining
when the external USB input device has been detached from the computer comprises receiving a
disable function key input.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising updating a
system BIOS when the result of the determining step indicates that an external USB input device
has been attached to the computer.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising exchanging periodic messages between a controller and the internal input device after the internal input device has been disabled such that it is not necessary to re-initialize the internal input device in order to re-enable the internal input device.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:
means for determining whether an external USB input device has been attached to the computer; and
means for disabling an internal input device of the computer and enabling the external USB input device when the ~~result of the determining step~~ means indicates that an external USB input device has been attached to the computer.

21. (Original) A computer readable medium that includes software configured to cause a computer to perform the steps of:
determining whether an external USB input device has been attached to the computer; and
disabling an internal input device of the computer and enabling the external USB input device when the result of the determining step indicates that the external USB input device has been attached to the computer.

22. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the software is also configured to cause the computer to automatically determine when the external USB input device is attached to the computer.

23. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the software is also configured to cause the computer to receive a function key input indicating that the external USB device has been attached to the computer.

24. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the software is also configured to cause the computer to perform the steps of:

determining when the external USB input device has been detached from the computer; and

disabling the external USB input device and enabling the internal input device when the result of the determining step indicates that an external USB input device has been detached from the computer.

25. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 24, wherein the software is also configured to cause the computer to automatically determine when the external USB input device is detached from the computer.

26. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 24, wherein the software is also configured to cause the computer to receive a function key input indicating that the external USB input device has been detached from the computer.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the operating system is configured to directly receive data from the external input device via a universal serial bus (USB).

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the controller forwards data from the internal input device to the operating system, even after the enable function key input has been received by the operating system.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operating system is configured to receive data directly from the external USB input device, via the universal serial bus, when the external USB input device is attached to the computer.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein enabling the external USB input device comprises configuring the computer such that data from the external USB input device is sent directly to the computer's operating system via the universal serial bus.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer system according to claim 20, wherein the means for enabling the external USB input device comprise means for configuring the computer such that data from the external USB input device is sent directly to the computer's operating system via the universal serial bus.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the software is also configured to cause the computer to receive data directly from the external USB input device via the universal serial bus.